

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



SOYUZ LAUNCH VEHICLE
ERECTED ON
LAUNCH PAD BI AT
TYURATAM MISSILE TEST
CENTER, USSR

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SOYUZ LAUNCH VEHICLE ERECTED ON LAUNCH PAD B1 AT
TYURATAM MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR

Comparison of a ground photograph of an erected Soyuz launch vehicle which appeared in the 13 January 1969 edition of Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine (Figure 1) with satellite photography of Launch Pad B1 at the Tyuratam Missile Test Center (Figure 2) reveals that the Soviet Soyuz launch vehicle was erected on Pad B1 at Tyuratam. This indicates that Pad B1 is utilized for launching a man-rated vehicle. This analysis is based on the following factors:

1. The launch pad and missile service tower in the magazine photograph are of a type observed only at Launch Pads A1 and B1 at Tyuratam.
2. The launch pads and the service towers at A1 and B1 are very similar, if not identical, and thus identification of the launch pad in the magazine photograph depends upon correlation of other images in the photograph with features known to be in the vicinity of the launch pads.

Comparison of the magazine photograph with satellite photography of Launch Pad B1 (Figures 1 and 2) shows that the three lattice towers, the small building in the foreground whose long axis is parallel to the launch pad, and the edge of the launch pad overhanging the flame pit are in the same position and relationship in both photographs. Analysis of the location and character of similar objects at Launch Pad A1 shows that they are not the same as those in the magazine photograph.

Another factor in the identification is the shadow cast by the left latticework tower upon the side of the launch pad (Figure 1). Because the sun is never in a position relative to Pad A1 to cause such a shadow, Pad A1 could not have been the subject of the photograph. However, the sun's position relative to Pad B1 allows such a shadow to be cast.

Thus, photographic analysis indicates that the magazine photograph shows the Soyuz vehicle at Launch Pad B1 at Tyuratam.

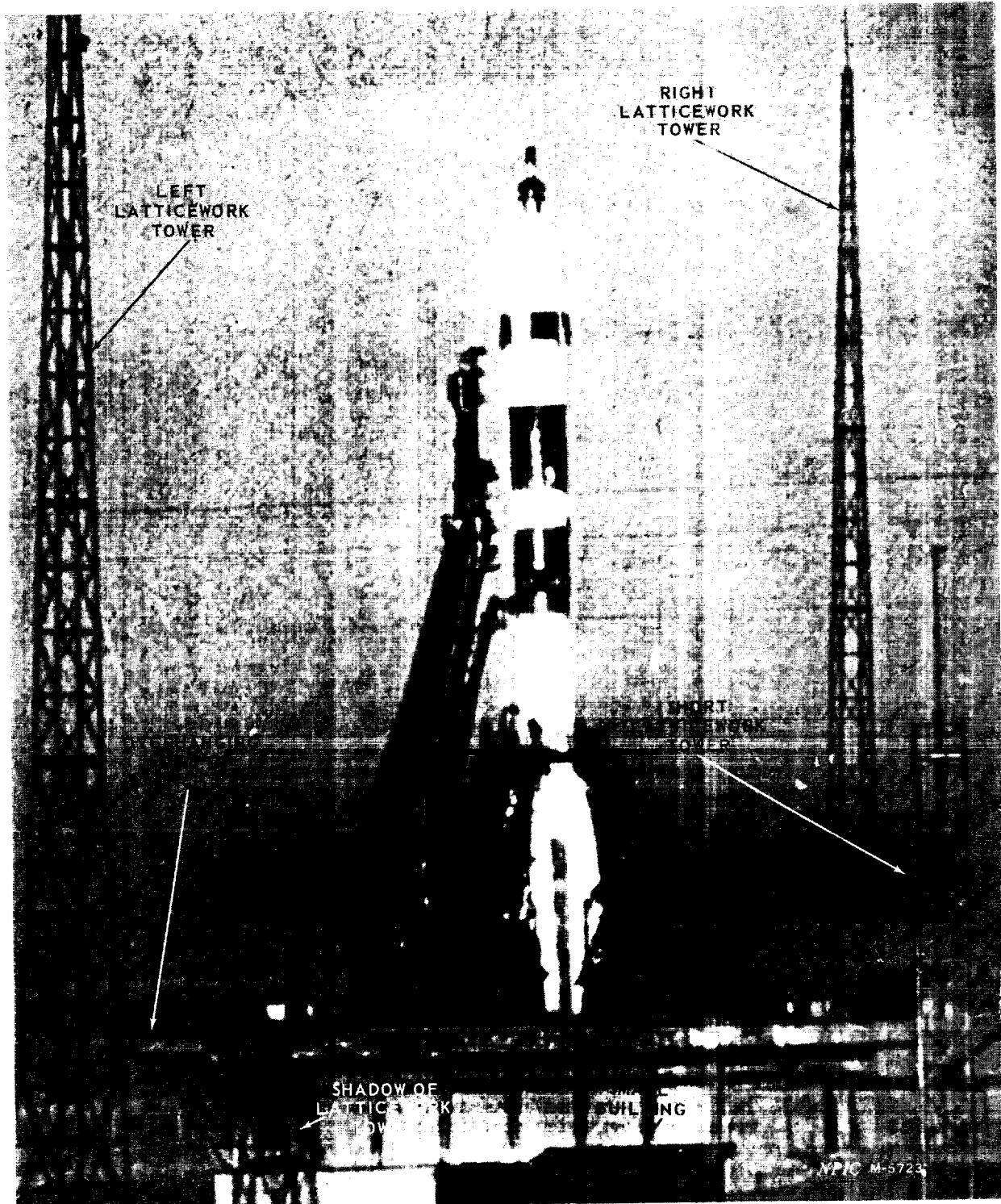


FIGURE 1. SOYUZ LAUNCH VEHICLE (shown in "Aviation Week and Space Technology").

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